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CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

24-HOUR REPORT**12 JUNE 2018**

(U) CALIFORNIA**(U) Reef Point – Boat Found Abandoned on Beach May Have Been Used for Human Smuggling**

(U) An abandoned Panga-style boat that may have been used for human smuggling was discovered on a beach in Orange County. A representative for the Laguna Beach Police Department said it wasn't clear how many people may have occupied the boat or when exactly it made landfall. The representative also stated that Border Patrol may be working an investigation in the area, had no additional information.

SOURCE: 11 June 2018, [LA Times](#)

(U) SOUTHWEST BORDER**(U) Texas – Border Patrol Arrests Two in Floated Drug-Laden Vehicle**

(U) Brownsville – A 14-year-old juvenile and a man were arrested after the pair allegedly led authorities on a pursuit in a vehicle that smugglers apparently floated across the Rio Grande into the US. Jorge Angel Rodriguez is charged with knowingly possessing with intent to distribute nearly 343 pounds of marijuana. Agents found Rodriguez hiding under a tarp and the criminal complaint does not describe where authorities took the juvenile, who is not identified, into custody. Authorities recovered 14 bundles of marijuana from the bed of the pickup truck.

SOURCE: 11 June 2018, [Brownsville Herald](#)

(U) NATIONAL**(U) District of Columbia – Federal Authorities Arrest 74 People in Wire Transfer Scam**

(U) Washington – 74 people, including 42 in the United States were arrested for allegedly hijacking wire transfer funds through a sophisticated email scam. The arrests were part of Operation Wire Wire, a six-month investigation by the Justice Department, US Postal and Inspection Service, the US Department of Homeland Security, and the Department of the Treasury. In total, arrests were made in five countries and roughly \$14 million in fraudulent wire transfers were recovered and nearly \$2.4 million was seized. Federal authorities allege the individuals impersonated employees or business executives after gaining access to their email accounts, better known as a Business Email Compromise (BEC) scheme.

SOURCE: 11 June 2018, [Washington Times](#)

(U) Georgia – Member of Notorious Cartel Sentenced to 49 Years in Prison

(U) Atlanta – A member of the Beltran-Layva cocaine cartel was sentenced yesterday on charges of importing huge shipments of drugs to the US and laundering the money back to Mexico. Edgar Valdez-Villarreal, aka "La Barbie," was arrested in Mexico in 2010 for crimes committed in Atlanta between 2004 and 2006. Valdez-Villarreal was sentenced to 49 years plus one month in federal prison, followed by 10 years of supervised release. He has also been ordered to forfeit \$192 million. Villarreal and his partner Carlos Montemayor Gonzalez are accused of running a cartel and using Atlanta as their distribution hub.

SOURCE: 11 June 2018, [WSMV](#)

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UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY**(U) Illinois – US-Bound Flight Diverted to Ireland After Threat Found Onboard**

(U) Chicago – A United Airlines flight from Rome to Chicago was diverted to Shannon Airport in Ireland yesterday after a message was discovered on board, Irish police said. The message referred to a bomb on the plane. The 207 passengers and 11 crew members disembarked the aircraft at Shannon Airport. United said in a statement that the landing was due to a potential security concern but declined to comment further.

SOURCE: 11 June 2018, [Reuters](#)

(U) INTERNATIONAL**(U) Mozambique – US Embassy Warns Citizens to Consider Leaving Northern District**

(U) Maputo – The US embassy in Mozambique said Americans should consider leaving a northeastern district close to a major gas field as imminent attacks are likely after suspected militants beheaded 10 people and killed seven others since May 2018. Any sign of militant activity is a concern for the country's fledgling gas industry and the area around the town of Palma near the Tanzanian border where the attacks took place is close to one of the world's biggest untapped offshore gas fields. The embassy released a statement on its website saying, we strongly advise American citizens in the district headquarters of Palma to consider departing the area immediately. Mozambique has not been a focal point of militant activity in the past and police have been reluctant to ascribe the attacks to Islamists.

SOURCE: 11 June 2018, [Reuters](#)

(U) PREPARED BY THE CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER.

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